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Workers excavate ground looking for unexploded ordnance. The individual anomaly sites, marked with flags, were identified by sophisticated metal detectors. (Photos courtesy U.S. Army)

UXO cleanup at Fort Ritchie

by Marshall Hudson Public Affairs Office

year ahead of schedule, under budget and with a perfect contractor safety record, Baltimore District's \$7.2 million ordnance and explosive removal project at Fort Ritchie, Md., reached its operational one-year anniversary in June.

Managed by personnel from the District's Environmental Remediation Resident Office, the project is the cleanup of conventional unexploded ordnance including mortars, light rockets and grenades from former training ranges and areas that were filled by soil from those ranges.

The project's original scope was to remediate 208 of the post's 614 acres

That milestone is expected to be reached by the fall, although the project's final area will probably involve about 260 acres, according to Joseph Brutsman, project engineer.

"The project expanded because a 200-foot buffer zone where no ordnance is found is required to ring the entire work area. Every

time something is found near the edge of the project, the removal area expands," he said.

Fort Ritchie, located in western Maryland, closed in September 1998 as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act.

Baltimore District has been involved with the Fort Ritchie project since before the post closed.

As the planning for the ordnance removal occurred, the team accomplished the removal of underground storage tanks and the remediation of hazardous, toxic and radiologi-

(Continued on p. 3)

CONSTELLATION

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Our military mission

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. Commander & District Engineer

All Corps Districts provide traditional military support, but we here in Baltimore distinguish ourselves by the quantity, quality and unique military support we provide the region and the nation.

In case you have not had the opportunity to see it, the May-June edition of *The Army Engineer* magazine features North Atlantic Division. Part of that article describes Baltimore District and some of our larger projects.

The article states that much of our work has a direct positive impact on the environment, which should make all of us proud.

While in no way slighting the superb environmental work we do, the main focus on Baltimore District could also have been the exceptional support we provide the Army and other Department of Defense agencies.

Several environmentally beneficial projects mentioned in the article could also be considered military support projects. The removal of unexploded ordinance and hazardous waste from Fort Detrick and Aberdeen Proving Ground, both active duty Army installations, helps the environment, but it also contributes to our nation's military readiness. By helping our customers focus on their main missions, we enhance their ability to conduct present and future operations.

These projects, though, are just the start of the story when talking about Baltimore's military support.

Our geographic location has given us the opportunity to work on many projects that are so important to America's defense that they cannot be discussed in detail.

Our work for customers, such as the National Security Agency and at the Alternate Joint Communications Center, known as Site R, has made a real contribution to America's national defense.

Our traditional military work from just the past and present year have encompassed dozens of quality of life, soldier support and mission readiness projects that are vital to some of America's most important military installations. They are vast in both quantity and in geographic area.

Our current projects include new barracks, training ranges, a munitions facility, a child development center, a fitness center, a chapel, fire stations, office buildings, a hospital and warehouses, to name just a few.

And we are doing these projects and others from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Fredericksburg, Va., and everywhere in-between. At Forts Meade, McNair, Myer, Belvoir, Ritchie and Detrick; A.P. Hill; Carlisle Barrack; Aberdeen Proving Ground; Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Arlington National Cemetery and many depots and National Guard and Reserve facilities, military customers depend on us.

We responded to the September 11th attack on America at the Pentagon and in New York, and are now managing the building of the Pentagon Memorial to honor those who lost their lives that day.

There are many reasons Team Baltimore is special. Just as George Washington was said to be first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, we are part of a larger organization that is first in environmental stewardship and first in military support.

Essayons.



A worker uses an EM-61, electromagnetic induction system, to identify anomilies as deep as three meters below ground.



Aerial photo of Fort Ritchie. The land in the top left and the wooded ridge in the background are being remediated.



Some areas on the mountain were so inaccessable that repelling gear was needed to conduct the search.



This light rocket was found during the excavation.

Fort Ritchie (continued from cover)

cal wastes at buildings like the photo lab and the motor pool.

"We started with an Archival Search Report; then performed an engineering evaluation and cost analysis and finally did geophysical mapping and data collection to confirm areas that needed to be remediated," said Brutsman.

"Some of the records for the post did not exist, and sometime in the post's history a lot of ground was moved to make it more level, putting built up areas over areas once used for training," he said.

The post belongs to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington until it is turned over for redevelopment, which is expected to be completed by 2005.

"Dealing with the Corps has been terrific," said Bill Hofmann, BRAC environmental coordinator for MDW. "All of the Corps people here, and most notably Chris Evans, have really treated us well as customers. In a word, this experience has been great."

The District has located, excavated and disposed of almost 300

pieces of unexploded ordnance from the site.

About 80,000 other metallic anomalies, which turned out to be everything from metal fragments, to nails, to magnetic rocks have also been investigated.

The excavations were dug to a four-foot depth in areas with potential for re-use and to a one-foot depth on the mountainside.

Deed restrictions preventing future unsupervised digging will be placed on the land when it is turned over to the public.

The Army has re-

tained about 20 acres of the post for the Maryland National Guard. The remaining acres will eventually go to the PenMar Redevelopment Corporation, a state-created entity whose goal is to maximize economic opportunities for Washington County.

In addition to not knowing exactly where all of the UXOs were, the project has overcome other challenges, including contractor bankruptcy and buyout, without the schedule being negatively affected.

BEWARE of the sun

by Maj. Paula Doulaveris Oncology Pharmacy Service Walter Reed Medical Center

Summer is here and sun worshipers welcome its arrival.

But, the sun has both positive and negative effects, according to the National Safety Council. The positive effects of the sun include warmth, light and photosynthesis in plants; antibacterial benefits; and the synthesis of vitamin D in the human body. Overexposure to the sun brings negative effects, which include diseases in the eye, immune suppression and skin cancer.

The National Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that skin cancer is the most common of all cancers in the United States. Every hour an American dies from skin cancer. Melanoma, accounting for more than 75 percent of all skin cancer, is the most deadly skin cancer, and light skinned individuals are 20 times more likely to get it than dark skinned individuals.

Melanoma is a cancer that begins in the melanocytes, the cells in the skin that produce and contain the pigment melanin that gives skin its natural color. When skin is exposed to the sun, melanocytes produce more pigment, causing skin to darken.

Sometimes, melanocytes grow in clusters. Benign clusters are referred to as either moles or nevi. Most individuals have between 10 and 40 moles on their body. These are usually brown, tan or black and round or oval. Moles are flat or raised

appear later, usually by age 40.

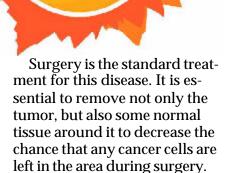
Melanoma can occur on any skin surface, but is found mostly on the trunk or head and neck of males. In females, it often occurs on the lower legs and trunk. Although rare among dark skinned individuals, it usually develops under the fingernails, toenails or on the palms of the hands or the soles of the feet. Malignant melanoma can occur at any age, but the chance of developing it increases with age.

The cause of melanoma is unknown; however, ultraviolet light from the sun causes skin damage that can lead to melanoma. Artificial sources of UV radiation, such as sunlamps and tanning booths, can also damage skin and lead to melanoma.

Risk factors include family history, fair skin and living in areas that get high levels of UV radiation. Others include having one or two close relatives with this disease, having unusual moles or three or more blistering sunburns as a child or teenager.

The first sign of melanoma is a change in size, shape or color of an existing mole. It could also be a new, abnormal or ugly-looking mole. Melanoma may itch, ooze, or bleed, but usually does not cause pain.

Treatment for melanoma depends on several factors, such as thickness of the tumor, how deeply the melanoma has invaded the skin, whether melanoma cells have spread to nearby lymph nodes, and the individual's age and general health.



If melanoma has spread to other parts of the body, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or a combination of these may be required.

Prevention of melanoma is primarily aimed at protecting the skin from the sun. One should avoid prolonged exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the rays are the strongest.

Wearing long sleeves for protection and broad spectrum sunscreens that have sun protection factor 15 or higher helps reduce the risk of receiving too much ultraviolet light.

Wear a hat with a four-inch wide brim and sunglasses even when walking a short distance. Stay in the shade whenever possible. Avoid reflective surfaces, which can reflect 85 percent of the sun's damaging rays.

Protect children by keeping them out of the sun and begin applying sunscreen at six months of age. Melanoma is preventable and the choice is yours. It's in your hands.

and can be present at birth or

Woman alters history of District's field projects

by Chanel S. Weaver Public Affairs Office

nyone who thinks that this world is a man's world probably has not met Truby Emerson.

Emerson, who has worked as a seasonal laborer at Tioga, Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes in Pennsylvania for the past six years, made history in May when she became the first female employee to be hired as a permanent worker at any of the District's 14 field projects. She will now hold a full-time position as a maintenance worker.

Emerson's new job will extend from the duties she performed as a part-time laborer. These duties vary a great deal, however. At times Emerson fills in and acts as a dam operator and at other times, she steps in and operates heavy equipment in the field.

Traditionally, only men have operated heavy equipment in the District's field projects, but Emerson has demonstrated that she is the exception to the rule.

Emerson's supervisor, Pax Whipple, says he is proud of Emerson's promotion and has a message for the men who are currently working at the District's field projects.

"Tell those male operators to move over!" said Whipple. "Truby is hardworking and will get the job done."

And while those men are moving over, they might as well move away from the driver's seat, too.

Emerson has earned a commercial driver's license, which

authorizes her to drive huge trucks. With this license, Emerson is proving that she is capable of performing any task that is placed in front of her.

Emerson's work extends far beyond the shores of Tioga, Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes. Various

organizations call on her occasionally to help out with other projects.

"Truby fills in wherever she is needed," said Whipple. "Phone and other utility companies have requested her by name to help them."

Emerson also does landscaping work at her project site. She is currently working on placing \$40,000 of landscaping material around a new building adjacent to her project office.

When she is not working with landscaping material, Emerson also helps with gardening around the site.

"I enjoy putting the plants in," said Emerson, who has earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Pennsylvania State University.

In addition to gardening, Emerson's other hobbies include fishing, baking, sewing and hunting.

But Emerson does not hunt with a typical rifle.

"I like to hunt with a muzzle loader gun," said Emerson.

The long-range muzzle loader



Truby Emerson takes a rest on her front end loader. (Photo by Pax Whipple)

is the same type of rifle that was used by Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. They were introduced by Joseph Whitworth in the 1860s and began to disappear when they were declared out of date for both sport and war in the mid 1870s.

Yet, Emerson still enjoys hunting with the antique rifle. She is a member of the National Rifle Association.

Emerson lives in Westfield, Pa., with her husband, Paul.

With her new position, Emerson only hopes that she will be an asset to the District. She adds that she is just thankful to have a job and good, friendly and understanding co-workers.

"I work with a good group of people," said Emerson. "They are open-minded. Tioga, Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes is just a good place to work."

Whipple adds that Emerson's co-workers value her, too.

"Her peers respect her," said Whipple. "This is well-deserved recognition."

Rain! Rain! Rain!

No deterrence to loyal employees

by Lucy Lather Public Affairs Office

The day began with just a slight drizzle. As employees, friends and family began arriving at Blob's Park June 14, the drizzle turned to rain. And, by 10:30 a.m., there was a fairly heavy downpour that forced nearly everyone indoors.

But the weather didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the crowd at the District's 12th annual picnic, organized by Construction Division.

In the main dining hall, Corps employees offered Corps memorabilia for sale, while the Employees Activities Association sponsored a book sale. Free raffle tickets were available for everyone who had purchased a food ticket.

Although the food line seemed non-ending, the hundreds who had purchased a food ticket steadily moved forward. Their reward was a variety of typical picnic food—hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, chips, barbque, ice cream and cookies.

After the district engineer welcomed the group, he drew the winning raffle tickets.

Children's activities went on, nearly as planned. Instead of outside, they were moved indoors to a nearby picnic pavilion.

This year pingpong was added for anyone tall enough to reach the table. True softball diehards competed, even in the rain, to win the coveted plaque. Engineering Division's Civil Works Branch captured the prize.

Another addition this year was an auto show. Although the weather did deter some employees who had planned to bring cars, five were on display, and attracted car aficionados to check

the engines, kick the tires and peruse the cars inside and out.

The four sports cars and one hybrid car were: a **1987 Porsche 928 S4**, one of only 1,967 imported and the fastest Porsche manufactured in 1987 with a top speed of 165 mph; **a 2001** Mercedes SLK320, one of two production vehicles currently sold in the United States with a retractable hardtop; a **2001 Z06 Chevy Corvette**, the first year for this special model within the Corvette line-up. Its V8 engine is rated at 385 hp and can do 0-60 in 4.6 seconds with a top speed of 170+ mph: **1993** Mazda RX-7 Twin Turbo, with an engine rated at 255 hp in stock form, and a top speed of 170; and a **2001 Toyota Prius**, a hybrid car that uses a gasoline engine and an electric motor, and averages about 48 miles per gallon.





Soccer and pingpong were two activities employees and family members participated in at the District's Organization Day picnic at Blob's Park June 14. This was the first year for pingpong, which generated a great deal of interest for "kids" of all

Photos by Tex Jobe













From left top: The autoshow cars (Porsche in front, Mercedes, Mazda, Corvette, Prius); a young dancer rests on the dance floor; Wayne Richardson waits for a pitch during the softball tournament; all who purchased food tickets could enjoy the picnic fare offered; Safety Squirrel dances for the camera; Col. Fiala congratulates the winning softball team.

Officials dedicate Murden Memorial on Poplar Island

by Chanel S. Weaver Public Affairs Office

Officials from the Army Corps of Engineers, along with representatives from other federal and state agencies, gathered in Talbot County, Md., June 17 to observe the restoration effort at Poplar Island and dedicate a memorial built in honor of William "Bill" R. Murden, Jr., who died March 15, 1997.

Large granite blocks surround the Murden Memorial, which sits near the pier of Poplar Island. Some of these blocks were also used to mount the plaque dedicated in Murden's honor.

Blocks from harbor

After a work crew found a number of large granite blocks in the Baltimore harbor, the designers of the memorial thought that it might be appropriate to use the blocks as part

to use the blocks as part of the Murden Memorial.

Monte Franklin, chief of the Navigation Section, said many of Murden's friends were thrilled to learn that these blocks actually came from the harbor, the waterways Murden frequently channeled.

Murden, who served in Operations as dredging chief, made significant contributions to the development of innovative dredging techniques. His expertise in the areas of dredging and marine engineering earned him numerous awards from such professional technical societies as the National Academy of Engineering and the International Association of Navigation Congresses.

Ron Cucina, retired assistant chief of Operations, noted that Murden developed a successful and unprecedented partnership with dredging contractors in the private industry. Cucina also praised Murden for his presentation skills as well.

"More than just a technical expert, Bill was an excellent and polished public speaker who had the ability to articulate solutions to complex engineering and sociopolitical issues," said Cucina.

The Murden Memorial at Poplar Island. Lt. Gen. (ret) Vald Heiberg, who served as the 46th Chief of Engineers, said the granite blocks are just right because they symbolize Murden's strength. (Photo by Tex Jobe)

Murden was beloved and respected by all who knew him—especially his co-workers. Ron Vann, who worked with Murden during his early years in Norfolk District, said Murden definitely lead by example.

"I was one that Bill mentored and encouraged," said Vann, who is now the Operations chief in Norfolk District.

"Bill earned great respect for his integrity and leadership throughout the world in advancing the cause of navigation."

Murden also advocated using dredged material in an environmentally sound manner—which is a key objective of the Poplar Island project.

Poplar Island, located in the

Chesapeake Bay approximately 34 miles southeast of the Port of Baltimore, is being restored to its approximate 1847 size using dredged material from the Baltimore channels.

The rebuilding of the island has been developed through the cooperative efforts of many federal and state agencies, as well as private organizations. Baltimore District Engineer Col. Charles J. Fiala Jr. described the project as a winner because it

combines the need for maintaining vital waterways with the need to preserve and enhance the environment.

Murden, too, was a person who cared about the environment. His book, *Dredging is for the Birds*, outlines the advantages of using dredged material to conserve wildlife.

Memorial represents beliefs

Many of Murden's friends are overjoyed to learn that Poplar Island was chosen as the site of Murden's memorial because the project represents so many of Bill Murden's beliefs.

"Poplar Island is the perfect site for the Murden Memorial," said Gerald Brown, a retired general who served as Baltimore's district engineer from 1982-1984.

"Visitors to the Bill Murden Memorial on the reconstructed Poplar Island should imagine Bill Murden watching over the Corps and its efforts to improve navigation and the environment."

COE, Kenwood partnership trains teens for real world

by Chanel S. Weaver Public Affairs Office

The days when high school students could only obtain a job "flipping burgers" is a thing of the past.

Over the past few decades, employers in such fields as retail, engineering and childcare have been turning to high school students to fill their vacancies.

The Army Corps of Engineers, too, has joined this bandwagon and hires high school students to work in the many offices throughout the Corps. Baltimore District currently partners with Kenwood High School to bring students into an office setting. They also receive two or three school credits for their work experience as well as pay.

Kenwood High recently selected Baltimore District as its Employer of the Year. Pat Czaplicki, coordinator and department chair of the School to Career program at Kenwood High, said that the Corps of

Engineers was selected as the most valuable employer because the agency gives the most valuable work experience to students.

"Army Corps supervisors, administrators and co-workers all team together to provide the very best working experience for our students," said Czaplicki.

Alicia Hudson, 17, who works as a student clerk in Planning, shares Czaplicki's views and says she prefers working for the Corps over any other employer because she is treated with respect when she comes to work.

Supervisors have a mutual feeling of respect for their student workers. Harry Williams, chief of the security and law enforcement office, says that Katrina Gant, 17, who works as a clerk in his office, is one student who goes far beyond the call of duty.

"It's refreshing to see somebody so young with that much initiative." said Williams.

While some students leave their jobs with the Corps immediately after high school, the pro-

gram is most successful when the students stick with it throughout college and begin to build a career in the Corps.

Sharon
Roland is a
prime example
of the program's success.
Roland, a contracting specialist, started
working for
the District as a

clerk in 1991 when she attended Patterson High.

In just 11 years, Roland has earned a bachelor's degree and received many promotions. Roland says she hopes more students take advantage of the opportunity to start working early.

Wayne Richardson, chief of Human Resources, says that he hopes to expand the program in the future.

"One of my goals is to take students who come from socially and economically deprived backgrounds and give them the motivation to succeed," he said.

And it appears that a will to succeed is prevalent in many of Kenwood's students. Danielle Moyer, 17, a student working in Contracting, was recognized by her school as the student who is most determined to succeed. Moyer, who is earning her associate's degree and high school diploma simultaneously, says she will not let anyone deter her from achieving her dreams.

Kenwood students are not the only ones who are part of this program. There are some students working in the District from Baltimore's Edmondson-Westside and Dundalk High Schools and local community colleges and universities as well.

E. Diane Goldian, principal of Kenwood said the School to Career program is so beneficial because it helps kids become well rounded and responsible. Richardson agrees with Goldian.

"The students receive first class experience and a leg up in the employment arena," said Richardson. "It looks more impressive on a resume than flipping burgers."



Wayne Richardson lends a helping hand to Stephanie Culver, a student clerk in HRO. Other Kenwood students in the Corps program are Nicole Baltusis, Patricia Campbell, Katrina Gant, Alicia Hudson and Danielle Moyer.

(Photo by Tex Jobe)

Corps celebrates last leg of Wyoming Valley project

On June 21, two important events, one past and one present, were commemorated during a ceremony at the Luzerne County Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

It was 30 years ago last month that Tropical Storm Agnes swept up the North Atlantic coast, beginning in Mexico and ending in New York, creating devastation beyond comprehension.

With rainfall totaling over 28 trillion gallons, and half of it falling in Pennsylvania and New York, rivers, creeks, streams and reservoirs surged, overtopping levees that had been built to withstand 100-year flood events.

One of the levees that succumbed to Agnes was the Wyoming Valley levee system, a flood control system that protects several communities in northeast Pennsylvania. To prevent a similar occurrence, in the 1990s a team of federal, state and local agencies joined forces to raise and strengthen the levee.

At the ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the last phase of the project, Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., Baltimore district engineer, spoke of the dedication and perseverance of all during the past 20 years in finally seeing this project near fruition.

"As we reflect on the terrible events of Agnes, we can all draw comfort in knowing that if a similar storm should strike this region today, protective measures are in place that will save lives and significantly reduce damages," Fiala said.

The levee improvements included raising the existing levees

and floodwalls between three and five feet, modifying closure structures, relocating utilities and in some areas, constructing new floodwalls and levees to strengthen the nearly 15 miles of the existing levee system.

The Corps also completed structural upgrades at the project's eight sanitary pump stations, and modified mechanical and electrical systems at 13 storm water pump stations.

Beyond its structural attributes, several aesthetic and recreational improvements such as benches, paved trails on the levee crest, trees and other landscaping features have been successfully incorporated into the project. These features will provide recreation to the community it protects.

Two congressional hearings about Baltimore projects

On June 19 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Dominic Izzo testified before the congressional Committee on Resources about the Washington Aqueduct's discharges into the Potomac River.

On June 26 Baltimore Commander Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. testified before Congress about the Spring Valley project.

Self-defense demonstration at CCB

In honor of Asian American/ Pacific Islander Month in May, several District employees, who are students of a kickboxing selfdefense aerobics class, and their instructors gave a martial arts demonstration at the District May 30. They also demonstrated selfdefense techniques that could be employed by men and women.





Former district engineers return

Now an annual event in Baltimore District, former district engineers returned to Baltimore May 31 for a half day of briefings and comaraderie among themselves and the division chiefs. Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. opened the morning with an update on the District's program. From left, Bernard Stalman, James Peck, Randy Inouye, Col. Fiala, Martin Walsh and Frank Finch.

Ceremony kicks off Centerpoint

The June 6 ceremony across the street from the City Crescent Building marked the official beginning of the Centerpoint project.

The \$70 million apartment, retail and parking complex was heralded a "beacon for the future of the west side," by Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

Centerpoint will add 394 apartments, with 35,000 square feet of retail space, including shops and restaurants, and a 402-car garage to the area when it is completed in 2004.



Mayor Martin O'Malley unveiled this banner at the ceremony.

You can sign the Declaration of Independence

You can join Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson in signing the Declaration of Independence. And, you can even print out a copy with your signature.

Go to http://www.archives.gov and click on "Join the Signers!"

This National Archives site hs a wide variety of information about the signers and their Declaration.

Celebrate the 4th of July at Union Station

The 226th anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence will be at Union Station this year while the National Archives Building is under renovation.

This year's festivities will include a reading of the Declaration and many other activities for the whole family.

The theme for the daylong celebration is "Declaring Our Freedom—Preserving Our Freedom."

The ceremony and family activities are free and open to the public and will take place in the Main and West Hall in Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave..

N.W., Washington, D.C.

Check out the website at http:// www.archives.gov/join_the_signers/ count_down_to_july_fourth.html for the day's festivities.



Courteous employee of the month

Marc Syme, from Construction Division's Bay Area Office, is the July courteous employee of the month.



"A mechanical Marc Syme engineer by education, Marc has served as the systems administrator for the Area Office since 1995. Widely recognized for his always positive disposition, Marc routinely assists other Construction Division area offices with their systems administration and automation challenges.

"Marc's extensive practical knowledge of computer applications and his genuine willingness to help out, sometimes on a moment's notice, have earned him a reputation as the "go-to" guy for automation issues remote from the District office.

"Doing business with Marc is always a pleasure. He is well deserving of recognition as courteous employee of the month."

> Jeff Werner Acting Area Engineer Bay Area Office Construction Division

On matters of opinion

Nothing of importance happened today.

—King George III, entry in his diary on July 4, 1776



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Official Business

Have a happy and safe 4th of July!

